

THE ISRAEL BLOCKADE AND THE
FLOTILLA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, in the last few weeks, the right of Israel to defend itself against threats to ensure its security has come under attack.

Last month, Israel Defense Forces intercepted a flotilla of vessels in the Mediterranean Sea manned by protestors whose aim was to provoke a response from Israel and prompt international disapproval of Israel's blockade of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

During this so-called "flotilla incident," Israeli forces boarded the ships to search for weapons. They were attacked and subsequently used force to protect themselves. The Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which organized the flotilla, has known ties to Hamas and other terrorist groups.

Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of this event, Israel has been unfairly and wrongly condemned for its actions. As criticism of Israel over this incident escalates, and investigations into the matter proceed, we must not forget who really is under attack—Israel.

Israel is persistently targeted for violence by Hamas and other military groups in the region. Hamas, which is officially designated by the United States as a terrorist group, is fervently avowed to the destruction of Israel.

Israel inspects cargo bound for Gaza to stem the flow of arms and explosives to Hamas and other militant organizations there who want to attack it. There is a good reason for this policy: Since Israeli forces withdrew from Gaza, Hamas has fired more than 7,000 rockets and mortar shells into Israel.

The foremost responsibility of government is to protect the safety of its citizens. Many nations—including the United States—reserve the right to confront threats to their security, sometimes preemptively to eliminate imminent danger.

Blocking the movement of weapons by sea into Gaza prevents Hamas and other militant groups from having the means to use violence against Israel to achieve their desired aims, chief among them the annihilation of Israel.

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that members of this chamber give due attention to the circumstantial evidence and historical facts surrounding the flotilla incident.

The relationship between the United States and Israel rests firmly upon the foundation of more than half a century of history. It is grounded in mutual respect, supported by shared values, and guided by common interests.

For these reasons, we must remain resolutely committed to uphold Israel's right to self-defense.

I urge my fellow colleagues also to voice their support for Israel on this important issue.

RECOGNIZING DOUG STEINHARDT,
2010 RECIPIENT OF THE WARREN
COUNTY "GOOD SCOUT" AWARD**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Central New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America is celebrating 100 years of Scouting at their Annual "Good Scout" Award dinner. The Good Scout Award is given to individuals who exemplify the true spirit of volunteerism and support the mission and purpose of the Scouting movement.

The 2010 recipient of the Warren County "Good Scout" Award is Doug Steinhart. A lifelong resident of Warren County, Doug has served the community in the tradition of the Boy Scouts of America and his work in the private and public sector is a testament to his dedication to the community. Some of the achievements and services Doug has provided to Warren County include being named to the governing body of the New Jersey State Bar, appointment to the Board of Directors of DARE, serving on the Legislative Committee of the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the Board of Directors of the Warren County Regional Chamber of Commerce. An Eagle Scout, Doug was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the Central New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America in July 2008. Doug sets the highest standard of how to lead by example to residents of Warren County every day.

This year, Boy Scout Troop 141 from Belvidere, NJ is also being honored tonight with the "Boy Scouts of America's Centennial Award", which recognizes the troop for being the longest continuously operated Boy Scout Troop in the Central New Jersey Council at 98 years old. They were chartered in March of 1912 by the Belvidere Scout Home Association who still charters the Troop today. Troop 141 Scouts camp at least once per month, attend summer camp on an annual basis and participate in community activities such as the annual Christmas tree presentation to the town of Belvidere.

Today, I join the Boy Scouts of America in acknowledging Doug Steinhart and Belvidere Troop 141. I am proud to represent such selfless and dedicated residents in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 339, Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5072—FHA Reform Act of 2010 (H. Res. 1424), I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 340, on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5072—FHA Reform Act of 2010, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 341, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 989, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States would adopt national policies and pursue international agreements to prevent ocean acidification, to study the impacts of ocean acidification, and to address the effects of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems and coastal economies, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 342, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1178, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to compile the cost estimates prepared by the Congressional Budget Office which are included in reports filed by committees of the House on approved legislation and post such estimates on the official public Internet site of the Office of the Clerk, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 343, on the Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4173—Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, I would have voted "nay" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 344, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1330, Recognizing June 8, 2010, as World Ocean Day, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 345, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5278, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 405 West Second Street in Dixon, Illinois, as the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building," I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 346, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5133, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 331 1st Street in Carlstadt, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Frank T. Carvill and Lance Corporal Michael A. Schwarz Post Office Building," I would have voted "aye" on the question.

FHA REFORM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5072) to improve the financial safety and soundness of the FHA mortgage insurance program:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5072, the "FHA Reform Act of 2010." This bill will make essential reforms that are needed to strengthen the financial footing of the Federal Housing Administration, which helps provide mortgage insurance to expand homeownership opportunities for thousands of Americans each year.

Passage of H.R. 5072 will enhance the FHA's authority to crack down on fraudulent lenders and those who violate their loan requirements. Clearly, the time has come for the federal government to provide much needed oversight of unscrupulous participants in the mortgage lending industry.